

August 8, 2003

The Honorable Dede Alpert, Chair
Appropriations Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Bldg. 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1475 (Steinberg) Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee
Hearing Date: August 18, 2003
City Position: Strongly Support

Dear Senator Alpert:

I am writing in **full support** of the bill authored by Assembly Member Steinberg, **AB 1475**, which is scheduled to be heard by your committee on August 18th. We support the bill as it would help the State better serve homeless people by having more homeless housing providers include support services. We find it appropriate to give preference to applications for State homeless housing funds that include these important services. However, in giving the preference, we do not believe that this factor should result in being a requirement for funding. There could be proposed projects where the need for social services is not great, and such projects should not be categorically excluded from funding.

The City of Santa Barbara is proud of its accomplishments in meeting the needs of the homeless and proud of its high success rate in finding permanent housing for this segment of our community. We have found that the on-site provision of social services is critical to our success rate. Amending the State's selection criteria to include this factor would help ensure that other communities succeed as well.

I thank you for your consideration of our position and **urge that you support** this bill.

Sincerely,

Marty Blum, Mayor

cc: Senator Tom McClintock
Assembly Member Hannah-Beth Jackson
League of California Cities
Jim Armstrong, City Administrator
Don Olson, City Special Projects Manager
Paul Casey, Community Development Director
David Gustafson, Assistant Community Development director
Steven Faulstich, Housing Programs Supervisor
John Ledbetter, Principal Planner
City Council Members